THE

Life and Conversation

OF

Temperance Floyd, Mary Lloyd,

and *Susanna Edwards*

THREE

Eminent Witches,

Lately Condemned at *Exeter* Assizes; together with a full Account of their first Agreement with the *Devil*: With the manner how they *prosecuted* their *devilish Sorceries*.

Also a full Account of their Tryal, Examination, Condemnation, and Confession, at the place of Execution: with many other Things Remarkable, and worthy Observation.

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The Life and Conversation of *Temperance Floyd*, *Mary Lloyd*, *and Susanna Edwards* Three Notorious *Witches*, &c.

Temperance Floyd, the most notorious of these Three *Witches*, being a poor Woman and earning her living by the *Sweat* of her *Brows*, the cunning Old *Serpent* takes hold of her poverty as an opportunity of laying his bait, for 'tis a *Maxaim* in the Devils politicks allwaies to *Fish in troubled water*, which course he commonly takes to erect his *Trophies* upon the Destruction of such Miserable Creatures.

The first time the Devil tempted her was in an Afternoon, when the poor Woman labouring under an almost Insupportable Burden of *Broome*, accosted her in the *Shape of a comly Black Man*: With (as it were) a civil offer of Friendly assistance, but she viewing him discerned his Feet to resemble those of an *Oxe*, and thereupon returnig him an answer in which she used the Name of GOD: *(For I have not charity enough to think she had Grace to speak in the Sacred Name, otherwise then prophanely)* the Tempter immediately *transformed himself into a Flame, so as appeared.* The Woman walks on with her Burden until she arrives at her own poor Habitation, where

going along the Entry, ſhe ſaw (in appearance) a *Black Dogg*, which as ſhe thought grew ſtill bigger, and bigger, but that Vaniſhing ſhe preſently ſaw the ſame *Black Gentleman*, who but a little before met her in the *Broome-Field*, who being now grown a little wiſer then he was before, proceeded with thoſe Suttile In ſinuations that he prevailed with her to conſent to his compact *(Drawn up in writeing wherein he bound himſelf for a time, and her his forever) which ſhe Signed with her own Blood, which the* Devil *(as an ingenious* Chyrugion *) drew from her with little or no pain.*

Now has this poor wretch Struck Hands with the *Devil*, and is become his *Bon-ſlave*; for indeed you may obſerve (as in this, ſo in all caſes of the like Nature) that where the *Devil* once becomes a familiar there he always makes himſelf an inſulting *Maſter*; for no ſooner was the Inſtrument Signed, but he immediately iſſues out his commands; *the firſt of which was for her to goe to one Madam* Thomas, *the Wife of a worthy Gentleman of* Biddiford *in the County of* Devon, *and hurt her, which ſhe could not have done without the aſiſtance of her Patron who conveyed her Inviſible into the Room where the Gentleman and his Lady were aſleep in Bed, and there did this Devilized creature bruiſe the Side of the ſaid Madam* Thomas *in a moſt cruel manner and then left her.*

I suppose this *Witch* (Woman I shall no more call her) might have been taken in the Room if the *Devil* had been Knave enough to have left her there but it seems he was to honest to break covenant; Yet certain it is, he is not only Knave enough, but the original Source of all Knavery and Vice, and it is not for any respect to breach of Covenant, or other good motive that makes him for a time true to his Proselytes, but to make them further and greater Instruments of *Hell*, and Mischief, as his next essay makes appear.

When she had performed his first command he then Enjoynes her upon a 2*d*. and more pernicious enterprize (*viz.*) to Kill the Gentlewoman, but she was not yet become *Devil* enough, and therefore refuses: Whereupon the *Devil* struck her a slap on the Face, where he left the print of his Fist. But however, he prevailed with her so far as to become a Thirteen Years Tormentor, to this poor Gentlewoman, who dureing all that time was afflicted with some supernatural affliction or other; the cause of all which was hidden from Physicians, nor could she obtain from them any remedy; sometimes she would be seized with Fitts of raveing, sometimes of laughing, but alwaies of pain.

The *Minister* of the *Parish*, obserying her Fitt of laughter and by his Reading, knowing somethin

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presumption that they must be the Instruments of Sorcery, and therefore desired that in those Pans, the bottoms of her Feet might be held, and covered with Hands, which Project had good successe for it alwayes stayd her laughter, and proved consequently more effectual then the magical charme by which she was inchanted.

From hence I offer the Learned, (for this is certain Truth) whether or no it may not be thought, that *Witches* do torment in Effigie, (as surely this did by Tickling) and if they do whether there may not be infallible countercharmes, successfully and laudably applyed, as we find this was, and if so whether or no it will not be highly beneficial to the Publick, (especially to those of Scotland,) to publish something to that end effectual.

The *Minister* above said caused this *Witch* to be apprehended, and committed to *Exeter Goale*, where she remained a Month before she would confess anything, but at last she made a free confession of all that is above said, with many more exploits too long here to insert, as that the *Devil* assuming a cold Body had frequent carnal knowledge of her, that she used often to put to sea (in an *Egg shell* as she affirmed) where she has been the destruction of many *Ships*: But that of which she said she most

repented

ty Youth whose shape and Beauty, she spoke of with great commendation.

She also impeached one *Mary Floyd* and one *Sarah Edwards* both which had been too long and great actors in such sort of Devilising, but because my Paper will not Permit, I shall give you no trouble with them.

By the report spread abroad came many from all parts, to see this grand *Witch*, and among the rest the *Minister* of her own *Parish*, at the Sight of whom she seemed Extraordinary Joyful, and desired to Touch his Hands; which the *Minister* refused not, and having him by the Hand she told him she knew not but that his advice and prayers might do her good: She also put him in mind of his once Rideing between *Banton* and *Taunton* where in the midst of the Water, his Horse would neither go forward nor backward untill he used these, or words to this effect, *Well Satan thou hast not long time to continue a Torment to human Nature before thou shalt be chained up &c. at which words the* Devil *fled away in the Shape of a* Bull, *and roaring most terribly: And told him that then she was there though invisible.*

This *Minister* gave them all a good and whole som

some advice, and desired them to say the *Lords Pray-*
ers; of which the last could not repeat one word,
and but *Temperance Floyd* said all, with these alterations;
when she should have said Lead us not into Temp-
tation, she said Lead us into Temptation, and in-
stead of Deliver us from evil, said deliver us to
evil; and protested she could say no otherwaise.
This *Witch* was 70 Years old, and had been the
Devils Slave 30 Years of that time.

At the Assizes being brought upon their Tryal,
they all three pleaded *Guilty*: Thereupon the *Judge*
ordered the Goaler to Secure the Prisoners, but in
his charge to the Jury, gave his Opinion *that these*
three poor Women (as he supposed) *were weary of*
their Lives, and that he thought it proper for them to
be carryed to the Parish from whence they came, and
that the Parish should be charged with their Mainte-
nance; for that he thought their oppressing Poverty had
constrained them to wish for Death: Whereupon se-
veral Neighbours, who had been great Sufferers by
their *diabolical Practices*, moved that if these *Witches*
went home in peace, none of them could promise
themselves a minutes Security, either of their Per-
sons or Estates, and one of the Evidence offering
to prove one act of their *Witchery* and alledging a
door to be shut, one of the Three cryed out, that
is false, for the door was open; which tacitly im-
plyed that she was then an Actor, and consequent-
ly

ly convinced both Judg and Jury that she was guilty, and so of the other two.

At the place of Execution, *Temperance Floyd* made a full Confession of all that is aforesaid, with many more Particulars, too tedious here to insert. She desired all the Spectators to take warning by her, and then requesting of the *Minister* that the 51th *Psalm* might be Sung, begged the Prayers of all there present; and she her self uttered this short Prayer.

The Prayer.

LOrd God almighty, who desirest not the Death of a Sinner, but that he should turn from his Wickedness, and live; grant, I beseech thee, that this my late Repentance, may be true, and not too late: I do protest Sincerely (as far as I know my own Heart) that were I to live my Days over again, I would lead such a Life, as should leave no room for Doubt; but, seeing my Moments are but few, I can do no more than can be done in such a Time; and my confidence is, that through the Merits of my Saviour, all my former Iniquities, shall be blotted out; which I beg for his sake alone, in whom I hope to find mercy.

At the turning over she said *Lord* receive my *Soul.*

F. I N I S.

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